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28453 WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

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FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending May 4, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

Potatoes: New crop stock from Kern County, California is now reaching the market at the rate of approximately 75 cars daily by rail, in addition to a heavy truck movement into the California markets. Shipments for Friday amounted to 116 cars by rail. Present indications point to a possible 30,000 car crop, with the peak movement in June. Wholesale and retail prices have held firmly at ceiling, with demand brisk. The new crop in Florida and Alabama is being rapidly moved into the eastern markets, and have averaged about 390 cars daily the past week, with some shipments reaching the Pacific Coast.

Lettuce: Shipments from the central California section the past week increased to 2,109 cars for the week, compared to 1,828 cars the previous week. Total U.S. movement was 2,300 cars. Wholesale prices on Salinas 4 to 5 dozen dry pack stock continued to hold mostly at ceiling. Interior valley stock was lower because of lower quality.

Tomatoes: Stock from Mexico is arriving in lesser quantities, and it appears the tomato shipping season there is nearing an end. Imperial Valley and Coachella Valley, California stock is increasing on the western markets, and is holding at ceiling for the 9, 12, and 16 top pack, with smaller sizes lower. Small quantities of Florida stock is reaching the west coast markets. The bulk of the fresh stock reaching all markets is now moving out of Texas, where the average daily carlot movement for the past week was 196 cars, with a total for the week of 1,396 cars. Total U.S. shipments the past week were 1,624 cars, a daily average of 232 cars. It is expected that this movement will materially increase during the next week or two, with Texas stock holding the lead.

Peas: Carlot movement of green peas declined to a daily average of 34 cars the past week, with the western wholesale markets showing little improvement in demand and price, closing the week at mostly 8 to 10 cents per pound for the better grades. Most of the available stock originated at central California points, although toward the end of the week there was some movement from northern California areas.

DAIRY AND POULTRY:

Eggs: Volume of egg receipts the past week compared with those of previous weeks, coupled with the demand and prices paid for laying hens, indicates that the peak of production for the season has been reached. Demand continues in excess of available supplies, although a decrease in hatchery demand has slightly increased supplies.

Poultry: Receipts on the markets of the west have been light the past week, and demand has exceeded available supplies of both live and dressed stock.

Butter: Supplies continue light, and gains in production were offset by the increased set-aside for May. Despite light supplies, the light civilian demand

was being filled.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle: Receipts on the four western markets the past week were 13,419 head, approximately 88 percent of receipts for the previous week. On the twelve principal markets, receipts increased 3 percent over the previous week to 206,900 head, 18 percent above the same week a year ago.

The market on all classes was generally lower by about 25 cents, some classes as much as 75 cents lower. Top prices for Good to Choice fed steers ranged \$15.50 to \$17.00.

Hogs: Receipts of hogs on the four western markets increased the past week to 14,500 head, a 64 percent increase over the previous week. The twelve principal markets continued to show declines, and reported only 193,500 head, 96 percent of the previous week and only 39 percent of receipts of the same week last year.

Demand continued strong with prices at ceiling.

Sheep: Receipts of sheep the past week totaled 20,099 head, up 90 percent. A 15 percent increase over the previous week brought the receipts on the twelve principal markets up to 257,000 head for the past week.

Prices on spring lambs declined 25 to 50 cents during the week. Top prices on Choice spring lambs ranged \$14.00 to \$15.25.

GRAIN PRODUCTS:

Alfalfa: Improved demand for Number 2 hay, and lack of liberal offerings of higher grade stock, advanced the price one dollar per ton in the Los Angeles area. Prices on Number 1 hay remained mostly unchanged from the end of the previous week. The market at Kansas City continued slow. The weather was unfavorable to good growth in the field and caused considerable shattering of leaves on cut crops.

Wheat: Continued heavy requirements of the army and world relief needs has been a steadying factor in the wheat market. Supplies of box cars for shipment of wheat supplies have shown improvement during the week.

In the Pacific Northwest prices advanced approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per bushel during the week.

Beans: Prices of most varieties remained at ceiling during the past week. Planting of the 1945 crop in California has made rapid progress due to more favorable weather conditions, and stands in the earlier fields have shown good progress.

Cotton: Planting and seed-bed preparation in some areas has been retarded because of wet soil, and cool weather in some sections has retarded growth of the earlier plantings. However, this condition was improved toward the end of the week.

Prices advanced again during the past week to a new high of 22.51 cents per pound.

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